Nathaniel and Nat Statham: Lottery, Land and Location

Compiled by Donna Newman, CG

Telfair County

Nat Statham said in his War of 1812 pension application that after his discharge in January 1813 at Milledgeville (Baldwin County) he lived for about a year in Jones County, then five years in Telfair County before settling in Irwin.[1] He was likely with the Telfair County militia when they skirmished with the Creek Indians in the Battle of Breakfast Branch on 9 March 1818, a conflict in which Nat was known to have participated.[2]

Nat and Nathaniel were shown in Telfair County when they drew land in the 1820 land lottery.[3] The registration period was from 15 December 1818 to 15 March 1819 and from 13 December 1819 to 31 March 1820[4] and they were living in Capt. Williams district when they registered. Nat drew Lot 42, District 4 in Rabun County and Nathaniel drew Lot 332, District 19 in Early County.[5]

Nat's 490 acres in Rabun County were reflected in the Irwin County tax digests from 1830 to 1832. Nathaniel's 250 acres in Early County were as well, reported by his (presumed) son George U. Statham for the same years.[6] The number of acres is consistent with the size of the lots granted in each of these two 1820 lottery counties.[7]

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[1] Thompson N. Statham (Pvt., Capt. Carter's Co., War of 1812), application no. 30063 (Rejected); Case Files of Rejected Pension Applications, War of 1812; Records of the Bureau of Pensions and Its Predecessors, 1805-1935; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C. Nat's claim was rejected "by reason of abandonment, no response having been received to call under date of Mch. 16, 1875 for a correct statement touching his service in the War of 1812." Further information was being requested as Nat's name wasn't found on the muster rolls of Capt. Carter's company.

[2] "Wilcox County Historical Markers: Battle of Breakfast Branch," wiki with photo, *GeorgiaInfo* (https://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/ : accessed 13 February 2008).

[3] *Southern Recorder (Milledgeville, Ga.)*, 17 October 1820, p. 1, col. 5, Telfair, Nathaniel Statoms; and 14 November 1820, p. 1, col. 3, Telfair, T N Staton; digital images, *Georgia Historic Newspapers* (https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/ : accessed 12 December 2019).

[4] Robert S. Davis, "The Georgia Loose Land Lottery Papers," *Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly* 52 (Summer 2016): 136-138, especially 137.

[5] Silas Emmett Lucas Jr., *The 1820 Land Lottery of Georgia*, e-book (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1973); 333. For the later print version, published in 1986, the fortunate drawers were organized alphabetically and the lot drawn by Nathaniel is misidentified as Lot 322 (*The Third or 1820 Land Lottery of Georgia* (Easley, S. C.: Southern Historical Press, 1986), 301. The same lot was attributed to Henry Peebles, Jefferson County, in both the e-book (p. 275) and in the print version (p. 257).

[6] "Georgia, Property Tax Digests, 1793-1892," database and images, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com : 2011).

[7] "Land Lottery Records," wiki, *Georgia Archives* (https://www.georgiaarchives.org : 2020); path: Start-> Research-> Research Help.

Pulaski County

In 1816 Nathaniel purchased three tracts then In Pulaski, originally in Wilkinson[8] when they were drawn in the 1807 land lottery: Lots 286 and 287 in District 14 and Lot 271 in District 15, all granted to John M. Patrick who had apparently purchased the warrants from the individuals who drew them in the lottery.[9] The deed was executed in Baldwin County and does not state the county of residence of either party but a John M. Patrick published an advertisement for his tavern and stables in Irwinton, Wilkinson County, earlier the same year.[10]

Nathaniel's Pulaski County deed was recorded in 1817 but there is no evidence he ever settled on the property and he was not on the 1818 Pulaski County tax list; until 1847 land tax was paid in the county where the taxpayer *lived* and not necessarily in the county where the land was located.[11] Unfortunately, early tax records for Telfair County have apparently not survived.[12]

Irwin County

The new county of Irwin was created in December 1818, but the Creek land cessions that comprised it had actually been negotiated in January of that year.[13] By the time the county was officially created, pioneer families from Virginia, the Carolinas and eastern Georgia were already living there[14] and it is certainly possible this included the Stathams. Nathaniel's family was among Irwin's original settlers, with Nathaniel and Nat among those selected to serve on the first Grand Jury and Petit Jury, respectively, at the first term of Superior Court in September 1820.[15]

[8] Pulaski County, Georgia Deed Book E: 103; digital image, FamilySearch.org (https://familysearch.org : accessed 30 October 2017); 4 November 1816, image 74.
[9] Paul K. Graham, compiler, *1807 Georgia Land Lottery Fortunate Drawers and Grantees* (Decatur, Ga.: The Genealogy Co., 2011), 333, lots 286 and 287, granted to John M. Patrick on 20 November 1815; and 349, Lot 271, granted to John M. Patrick on 21 November 1815.
[10] *The Georgia Journal (Milledgeville, Ga.)*, 24 April 1816, p. 1, col. 1, *Georgia Historic Newspapers* : accessed 2 September 2020.
[11] "Georgia Tax Records FAQs," wiki, *Georgia Archives*; path: Start-> Research-> Research Help.
[12] The earliest tax year for Telfair shown in "Georgia, Property Tax Digests" at Ancestry.com and County Property Tax Digests at *Georgia Archives* is 1853 and no tax records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog for Telfair at FamilySearch.org (search conducted on 2 September 2020).
[13] Gordon Burns Smith, *History of the Georgia Militia, 1783-1861*, 4 vols. (Milledgeville, Georgia: Boyd Publishing, 2000-1), 1: 163; and J.B. Clements, *History of Irwin County* (1932; reprint, Atlanta: W.H. Wolfe Associates, 1978), 28.
[14] Clements, *History of Irwin County*, 30.
[15] Ibid., 64.